The need to properly manage our land resources for sustainable development is, however, well recognized. Government of India has formulated comprehensive schemes/programmes on watershed development for control of soil erosion and land degradation in the country. The various Watershed Development Programmes being implemented are (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Land in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) on Watershed Development, (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vii) Desert Development Programme, (viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) and (ix) National Afforestation & Eco-Development Project Schemes (NAEPS).

National Research Centre for Pomegranate

1964. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish a National Research Centre for Pomegranate at Solapur in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A National Research Centre on Pomegranate (NRCP) has already been established by the Indian Council of Agricultral Research at Shelgi, Solapur (Maharashtra) and has started functioning thereon for conducting basic, strategic and applied research for increasing production.

Unified Research

†1965. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no growth in the fields of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

agro-products due to a very slow pace and process of research and exploration in the agricultural sector of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for lack of co-ordination between agriculture universities, agriculture science centres and central research institutes in the field of integrated research for increasing the growth rate of agriculture sector, the intended results are not being achieved in providing the farmers with the seeds of high yielding varieties, hybrid varieties, and of certified quality; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICLTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. A lage number of commodity and location specific agricultural machines, products and processes have been developed by the ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities for timely operations, efficient use of inputs, quality enhancement, cost reduction, employment generation and safer environment. The overall growth in agriculture of 2.3% during 2005-06 stated in the Economic Survey of the Government of India, is a testimony of that.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Coordination among various agriculture universities, agriculture science centres and central research institutes is effectively achieved through several institutionalized mechanisms such as ICAR Regional Committee Metings, Vice-Chancellors' meet, Directors' meet, Pre-Rabi/Kharif ICAR-DAC interface, All India Coordinated Research Project Workshops, National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif and Rabi Campaign, and Agriculture Technology Management Agency etc., Establishment of more than 500 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country has further strengthened the forward linkages in the technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technologies and providing breeder seed and nucleus planting material of high yielding varieties and hydrids. The multiplication and supply of quality seed and planting material is being augmented through a new scheme-Seed Production of Agriculture & Horticulture Crops and Fisheries which has been sanctioned for the last two years of Xth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 198.89 crores which will help in enhancing breeder seed production, planting material and quality seed production. It will also facilitate the fisheries seed production, ultimately it will enhance the crop production and productivity in the country.